

Mental Health Career Pathways

Special Topic Workgroup

June 29, 2006

MHSA Workforce Education and
Training

Stakeholder Recommendations

- Ensure programs develop leadership skill sets, especially for youth
- Recruit potential participants from unserved and underserved communities and cultural groups
- Emphasize integration into existing high school programs that provide work experience opportunities, such as Workability I

CMHPC Recommendation

- Fund the expansion of mental health career pathways in secondary education by enabling counties/contract agencies to apply for funding to:
 - Partner with secondary educators to supplement/expand existing human/health service academy programs
 - Create human service academy programs
 - Become a resource for existing academy programs by having staff serve as guest speakers, mentors, or develop internships

Workgroup Strategies

Outlined parameters by which mental health career pathways should be formed:

- Long-term stable funding source
- Local, regional state buy-in
- Marketing and outreach strategies
- Targeted populations involved in planning, construction and evaluation of programs
- Possess a link to post-secondary education

Workgroup Strategies(2)

- Articulate realistic outcomes to measure impact
- Standards for completion with next steps for participants
- Leverage existing funding mechanisms
- Add features such as work experience in PMH, stipends for completion, CEUs for professional staff to participate
- Capture best practices and lessons learned for improvement and replication

Next Steps

- MHA LA to assist DMH to develop scope of work and estimated dollar amount to undertake planning process to develop a mental health career pathway program
- Workgroup to meet August 31st to review draft RFQ for planning, develop standards for early adopters to apply for funding as a replicable model, and to discuss strategies to assess California's secondary education capacity to partner with PMH in pathway programs

Workgroup Strategies(2)

- Link CEU requirements to address furthering the intent of MHSA, cultural competency, language proficiency
- Fund release time and consumer, family members to exchange faculty and PMH participants to influence curricula, stigma and respective cultures
- Assist campuses with reasonable accommodations for consumers as students
- Via regional partnerships facilitate common research activities and grant activities

Next Steps

- Workgroup participants will volunteer to participate in a teleconference for each of the broad strategies outlined to develop greater specificity for recommendations and possible funding actions
- The workgroup will then meet October 5th to review products and plan next steps